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Out for a hike

Located just outside West Guilford, Robin Bell looks back at his daughter's dog Gracie, checking on who is following them while out for a snowshoe hike on his private trail next to a bay that feeds into Cranberry Lake on Sunday, Jan. 17. Bell's property includes natural growth and trees he planted with his wife close to 30 years ago, bringing back a stand of trees to what was used for grazing decades before he moved there. Bell regularly snowshoes for exercise and to pack down the trail so he can use it to wear his lighter snowshoes designed for running.
/DARREN LUM Staff



Cancellation of February Frost Fest confirmed

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

With outdoor activities such as dog-sledding, ice-climbing, and bonfire feasting where the young and young at heart would eat s'mores by a fire, the Frost Festival

always brought joy to Haliburton.

Its venue Head Lake Park was often warmed by the many smiles of those who came, bringing light to a dark time of the year. However several weeks before the announcement of the provincial lockdown, which started on Boxing Day, the winter tradition was cancelled.

Dysart's events and recreation coordinator

Andrea Mueller said the decision to cancel this annual event outright for 2021 was in response to the current situation and the restrictions mandated by the province in response to the pandemic.

"We had explored the idea of offering smaller activities located in different parts of the community as part of the Frost Festival, but upon closer examination

decided that this would not be the best approach," she wrote in an email. "Instead, we decided to promote winter activities that people can do with members of their own household, while abiding by the current provincial guidelines."

The annual winter event always included a variety of attractions for the

see DYSART page 16

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'This is serious,' says MOH in health unit's first press conference

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

On Jan. 13, at the first of a planned series of weekly media teleconferences launched last week, Dr. Ian Gemmill, acting medical officer of health for the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge district health unit spoke to questions around Ontario's stay-at-home order, and the need to stop gathering and travelling to protect the healthcare system and vulnerable Ontarians.

Gemmill said the virtual media scrum would enable more efficient sharing of information between the health unit and local media, describing the pandemic situation as being "quite fluid, not only from the point of view of the virus, but from the policy decisions that change from week to week." The event took place the day before Ontario's 28-day stay-at-home order began on Jan. 14, an order Gemmill said was necessary to disrupt the second wave of the pandemic that was predictably proving to be more severe than the first.

"The second wave is affecting not just [our local region], not just Ontario or Canada, it's affecting the entire world, some places more than others," said Gemmill. "In a way, even though we've had more cases over the last several weeks, we're a bit in a more privileged position than some parts of Ontario. I talk to my colleagues in the GTA and so on, they are really, really stretched and really pulling out all the stops to do all the work that needs to be done for each case and high-risk contacts that's identified."

The health unit region, which includes Haliburton County, City of Kawartha Lakes and Northumberland County, has seen 724 confirmed cases of COVID-19 to date, with 29 deaths among confirmed cases and 13 deaths among probable cases. To date, 43 cases of COVID-19 have been reported in Haliburton County, with five cases currently not resolved and 14 current high-risk contacts.

"People in no areas should think, we don't have to worry about this," said Gemmill, noting because of the risk of the virus being spread throughout communities, people shouldn't relax until a minimum of 70 per cent of the population is vaccinated for reasonable community-

wide protection. "The risk may be lower from place to place but I've also seen it moving around."

Gemmill said the health unit has been seeing more cases in younger populations over the last little while, with the highest-risk group being those aged 30 to 39 age, followed very closely by the 50 to 59 age group, then 20 to 29 years group and finally those aged 60 to 69.

"That's not surprising, in the first go around we didn't have testing for everybody, there may have been cases that were missed, and we saw the cases mostly in the elderly populations, especially in long-term care homes," he said. "Now with widespread testing, I think we can get a better picture of what is going on across the population."

Strong support for stay-at-home orders from healthcare workers

While noting strong support for the measures of a Boxing Day lockdown and stay-at-home orders issued on Jan. 14 by the provincial government, Gemmill said he was dismayed to hear that a curfew would not also be put in place, as it was in Quebec, given that many of the preventable transmissions are occurring because of gatherings. Instead of an evening curfew, he said the province was under a 24/7 curfew instead.

"People have to stay home unless there's a really logical and necessary and approved reason for leaving the home," said Gemmill.

Without the stay-at-home order, Gemmill said he thought the situation in the province would be out-of-control in terms of the health care system accommodating people with COVID-19 and also with other illness and medical emergencies and in reducing the number of people being infected prior to vaccinations.

"To me the stay-at-home order – the most important thing – is sending the right message to the public," he said. "This is serious. You can't pretend this is 2019, it's not. We're in the middle of a second wave of an illness that's clogging up the health system and is killing some of the population that otherwise would be OK."

Everyone responsible for protecting themselves to protect vulnerable

"Now some people say that a person might say to themselves, well, 'I don't care if I get sick.' But I think what is not recognized enough, and I want to emphasize this as well, is that every person is only two or three degrees of separation from possibly a vulnerable person," said Gemmill.

Gemmill said almost 40 per cent of long-term care homes have had active coronavirus outbreaks, with 198 residents and two staff at long-term care homes dying of COVID-19 since the beginning of the year.

"Since Jan. 1, 198 residents of long-term care and, even more shocking to me, two long-term care staff – that's people who are otherwise healthy who were just going in to do their very level-best to look after people who have trouble looking after themselves, they have died of coronavirus and this is just unacceptable."

Forecasts suggest, said Gemmill, that more deaths will occur in long-term care homes during the second wave than died in the first wave, which is why he has said people living and working in long-term care facilities will be the first to be vaccinated.

"When we get the vaccine in our area, we will leave no stone unturned to get [vaccinations] in long-term care first and then others as fast as we possible can."

The other issue, Gemmill said, is the impact of the virus on the healthcare system – both people working in it, and people needing access to care.

"You've heard about this from the premier, the ICU capacity is over 400 beds, surgeries are being cancelled, and the access to care will continue to decrease with real consequences to other people's health," he said. "So it's not just people who are getting coronavirus, it's people with other conditions who will not have access to care because of the huge pressure that's on the healthcare system. So it's not just about one person who thinks it's OK if I get sick, but everyone that that person, and the person they all come into contact with, that is the issue here."

Gathering and travelling allowing virus to spread

"Most of the cases for which we have a documentation for where they got the infection, one area is the household contact, and that is hard to avoid, if you live in the same household with somebody. But also by close contact which is defined as the gatherings," he said. "People know the advice about wash your hands and don't touch your face and stay two metres apart all that kind of thing, but what has had less emphasis is the whole issues of traveling and gathering. And that's the cause of much of the spread that I have seen, and I work with colleagues in different parts of Ontario, before I started here with [this health unit]."

He noted quotations from the province's modelling group that had presented projections for potential COVID-19 spread in Ontario, which stated that mobility and contacts between people had not decreased with the provincial lockdowns and restrictions that had been in place prior to the stay-at-home order, and that while "survey data shows that the majority of Ontarians are helping to limit the spread by following the guidelines, however, case numbers will not decline until more of the population follows their example."

"With current restrictions, two-thirds of the population are acting in a way that will decrease the spread of coronavirus, but it's not enough," he said. "We need everybody to do this, and that's why we had a lockdown a couple of weeks ago, and in addition, the stay-at-home order which means that we are expecting every person to be staying at home except for essential work, medical or health related appointments, and issues like medications, groceries, exercise is allowed, and I'm going to put family emergencies in here, that's not in the list but I think that everybody can understand that. And there are no other reasons."

Gemmill said travelling has been an issue, "and this is how the virus is taken from place to place."

"That's why I for one am fully support-

see TAKE page 9



Early bird gets \$1,000

Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation executive director Lisa Tompkins, from left, and vice-chairperson David Zilstra drew the early bird winning ticket worth \$1,000, won by Sally Moore and Janice Clarke of Minden, for the annual Cash for Care Lottery on Friday, Jan. 15 in Haliburton. Tickets are limited, but still available for purchase until the draw date on Feb. 15 with three draws worth \$1,500, \$2,000 and \$20,000. This lottery will help to fund new vital signs monitors for the hospital emergency and acute care departments. /DARREN LUM Staff

Man charged with impaired driving, committing indecent act on Christmas Eve

A Highland Grove resident is facing numerous charges following an "indecent" incident in downtown Haliburton on Christmas Eve.

At approximately 3 p.m. on Dec. 24, 2020 members of the Haliburton Highlands OPP responded to reports that an individual was committing an indecent act inside his car, which was located in a parking lot of a business on Highland Street.

Police say the suspect had travelled throughout Haliburton village that day, and that once stopped by officers, he rolled his vehicle into a number of parked

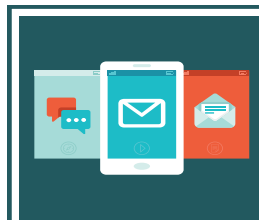
cars before coming to a stop at the local cenotaph.

As a result of the investigation, a 36-year-old man has been charged with one count of committing an indecent act in a public place, attempted flight from a police officer, and operation of a motor vehicle while impaired.

The accused will appear in court on a later date to answer to the charges.

Haliburton OPP continues to look for additional witnesses or victims and encourages people to contact the local crime unit at 705-286-1431.

Staff



Have a thought, comment or opinion
you'd like to share?

Send a letter to the editor to
mike@haliburtonpress.com

'Life goes on' at Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

Two weeks in to the new year, Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary, a year-round rehabilitation facility located in Minden, had already taken in about eight animals in need of care.

"Life goes on for us, actually," said Monika Melichar, on the day just before Ontario's second provincial lockdown during the COVID-19 pandemic began. "It's pretty busy, I would say. Normally, we're quieter in the winter, so I think we're in for a busy year."

This time in the season can be an active one for animal sightings and interactions, with motorists reminded that many animals are drawn to the road for hunting made easier in areas of deep snow. Additionally, with occasional days of warm weather, some animals are waking up earlier than they had planned and finding themselves starving or displaced – two snakes and a bat are now being homed at the Sanctuary until they can safely be released into a warmer season.

"We've had some gorgeous days just recently," said Melichar. "It gives them a false sense of spring. If they're hibernating, sometimes the animals will come out take a look around and get stuck. If we don't know where they belong, where their nest or roost is, they need to come in to us for the winter months and we look after them until spring."

The Sanctuary has also seen Canadian geese, a hairy woodpecker, a Great Horned owl, a muskrat and a porcupine in the last little while. Each animal offers Melichar a role in rehabilitation that she cherishes.

"To be able to handle and look after and get to know the different variety of animals we have in this area is so fantastic, that is so rewarding," she said.

"It's wonderful, this land between," said Melichar. "We have northern species and southern species. It's just wonderful to see the different varieties we get here. We always learn something new about the animals."

Barred owls

Two barred owls resting at the Sanctuary have been released, with one more almost ready to go.

"They're all the same bird, they're all barred owls, but their personalities are different, their facial features, their behaviours," said Melichar. "Some clack their beaks, some kind of blink at you, and it's so neat."

Hit and runs have been prominent in barred owl injuries, with Melichar posting online asking drivers to be extra careful of animals hunting close to roadways, and attempt to help if an animal is hit.

"People aren't stopping to see what happened," said Melichar. "Maybe it's dark, maybe it's busy. I could understand if it's the 401, but if it's just one of our local highways it's important to turn around and take a look, and if needed, call for help. A lot of these owls were either picked up by our volunteers or by somebody else, so even if you're on the way to work it's very possible we can get a ride for it somehow."

In December, four of the five owls admitted to the Sanctuary had been left after collisions, some with a concussion, some with a broken wing.

"They're fabulous to work with," said Melichar. "They're very gentle and don't necessarily fight us back when they're in rehab, so they're very easy to handle and work with."

Melichar said the best way to trans-



This barred owl (top photo) was struck by a car while likely hunting close to the roadway, where prey is easier to catch in the winter. Besides injuries to her leg and left eye, she required numerous stitches for a tear in her chest area.

At bottom, this barred owl was struck by a car on Hwy 35, the driver behind stopping to rescue the bird and transport it to the Sanctuary. / Photos from the Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary Facebook page

port the owls, which are quite docile, is to wrap them with a towel or jacket in a bundle, keeping their wings in place next to their body.

"A lot of people will have a shopping bag in their car, if you don't have a tote, or box, a shopping bag actually works, it's quite safe and you just tie the handles together where you have a protected area for them to rest in," she said. "You would want to cover their heads if you do find any animal you need to rescue, put something over top of them to cover their eyes, cover their heads. It makes it less likely for them to strike out at you or to feel scared because they don't see what's going on."

One owl that Melichar was examining chirped like a canary, causing Melichar to search the Internet to hear a similar call without much luck.

"It just kind of makes you go, wow, that is so neat," said Melichar. "The things they do, and being able to get to know them and get to know their different characteristics – it's always a learning experience. There's so much we don't know about the wildlife kingdom."

Foxes

"That's something we have constantly, it seems, I call it almost like a revolving door," said Melichar of the fox population that the Sanctuary assists each year with injuries commonly sustained from mange.

"It's a really debilitating disease that was just really rampant last year, it looks like it's not going away," she said of the skin disease caused by mites that burrow into the skin and can be transferred from animal to animal.



Tumbleweed was the Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary's last intake for 2020. He was dealing with mange that caused his eyes to close when he was chased and bitten by a neighbourhood dog. Not long later, it was reported he was still sore and weak but was able to stand on his own. /Photo from Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary Facebook page

"It causes a lot of crusting, just of the dead skin, and irritation and scratching and hair loss," said Melichar. "The poor little foxes, they look like they've got one big callous that's cracked and bleeding and causes infection. It's just a horrible disease. It will kill them if they can't survive and recover."

Mange will attack the face and tail area, so that when foxes curl up and wrap their tail around themselves, it transfers to their face so that their eyes seal up, they can't hunt anymore, and they starve.

"Tumbleweed, unfortunately, was at this stage where his eyes were squinting and asking for help," said Melichar. "They more or less come near people, approach houses, are more physical. I

find at that stage they're looking around residential areas for tidbits, maybe dog food, as opposed to the bush because they can't hunt anymore."

In his search for food, Tumbleweed – so named by the little girl who found him at the end of last year and called for help – was chased and bitten in the hind leg by a neighbourhood dog. Melichar had some good news about his progress, though: "Today we tested him – he can stand," she said. "He's still weak but he's using that hind leg quite well, he has total control over it, although it is weak still. We're happy with this progress."

She notes he has "the cutest little face."

A second fox that arrived recently, named Thistle, is now healing from mange in space set up beside Tumbleweed. She was emaciated upon arrival.

"She's a little girl and she was just a tiny mess of nothingness," said Melichar. "Her head is bigger than her body. She was so tiny and thin and dehydrated, she drank water for three days straight just to replenish."

The foxes are side-by-side where they can smell and hear each other, and will eventually be put in the same outdoor pen once their fur grows out.

"With the mange medication, their fur drops out and they regrow it," said Melichar. "We want to make sure they're regrowing winter fur and not summer fur because they're indoors. It's kind of a tricky thing in the winter, we have to keep them cooler later on when they're starting to regrow their fur and also put them outside so their winter coat comes in and not just their summer light coat, that could

see WOODLANDS page 11

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County addresses ‘misinformation’ on shoreline bylaw

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

Haliburton County councillors are calling another special meeting to further discuss the county’s controversial draft shoreline preservation bylaw, after a discussion during a Jan. 13 council meeting that addressed misinformation about the draft bylaw being circulated in the community.

The bylaw, which aims to protect lake health by maintaining and re-naturalizing shorelines, would restrict site alteration and the removal of vegetation within 30 metres of the high-water mark around water bodies. It has stirred some controversy in the county among waterfront property owners, as well as members of the community’s construction and landscaping industries.

“I’d like to begin this discussion by saying, I’m a little bit disappointed, I’m more than a little bit disappointed, to see the misinformation that has been put in advertisements in the newspaper, in letters to the editor, the false information that’s been spread through various methods ... through the internet, and through Facebook” said Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor and County Warden Liz Danielsen. “I’m also disappointed to see the number of people who are willing to cast aspersions about us and our work, about the thought that this is being sprung upon them, and we’re doing this under the cloak of secrecy. This is a topic that’s been under discussion for two-and-a-half years and longer, and if you’re just realizing it and are willing to complain, then I think you should probably take a moment to look into the details of this.”

“I would like council as part of this discussion to talk about how we might respond to this misinformation or respond to ads that suggest we’re going to spend three quarters of a million dollars on this next year,” Danielsen continued. “That’s just one of the concerns that I’ve got. It is unfortunate that people feel they need to start calling us names and giving members of council a difficult time.”

Danielsen said numerous emails have been received regarding the draft bylaw, many of them positive, but said many, she thought, were reactive to misinformation being spread.

Dysart et al Mayor Andrea Roberts noted that of all the emails and Facebook posts she’s seen, she’s received just one phone call from a resident asking for information on what’s happening with the draft bylaw.

“A lot of the emails are pertaining to the fact that because we are in a pandemic ... is this the right time to be doing public consultation,” Roberts said. The county is collecting public feedback on the draft bylaw through its website at <https://www.haliburtoncounty.ca/en/living-here/shoreline-preservation.aspx>, or planning staff and councillors can be reached by telephone. There is also going to be a Zoom-based public meeting on Feb. 24.

“It seems to be such a divisive topic, and it’s basically you’re either for or against, and I truly believe that there’s a middle ground,” Roberts said. “Everybody cares about the lake health.”

Roberts said she was in favour of having a third-party facilitator gather input from interested parties, “because right now I truly feel it’s off the rails.”

Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin said as far as he can tell, most of the emails council is receiving on the matter are regionally driven, coming out of Dysart. Devolin said he wanted to see the county’s input process continue.

“COVID’s going to be with us for years,” he said, “and I would arguably say at the end of this term of council, and for us to delay it because of COVID, I don’t think it will get dealt with in this term of council, and I truly think that would be a mistake.”

Devolin also said that any bylaw was a living document, and that changes could be made in the future, if so required.

“What we’ve put in place allows people to have input from wherever they are,” Danielsen said.

“There’s no question this issue is contentious and people have their heels dug in,” said Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt. Moffatt said she’d like to see more refinement of the questions the county was putting to the public through its website. “We have a very narrow window to do it well, and do it correctly, and I’m not sure that we’re there yet,” she said.

“Contrary to some opinions that I’m hearing out on the street, I’m not in anyone’s back pocket, so I want to qualify my comments going forward with this,” said Dysart et al Deputy Mayor Pat Kennedy. Kennedy said he didn’t believe the draft bylaw was yet in a form where it should be taken to the public for input. “I fully endorse a step back,” he said, “answer some of the questions that Councillor Moffatt has raised, as far as what the process is.”

“I feel we have lost the public trust on both sides of this issue,” Kennedy continued. “... we need to take a step back, and the province and the feds have done it in other ways, for example a royal commission, take a look at it with an arbitrary, open mind from both sides. My position is step back and regroup.”

Moffatt had concerns about introducing a third-party body. “Who would be on that, and what would it look like?” Moffatt said. “... The question is, how do you not leave somebody out? There’s a lot of misunderstanding, because we’ve been told that a certain number of lake associations are in support. Now, the lake associations are eating each other alive from the inside out. I can tell you personally, I get information from the public, and I believe our job is to get information from the public, and then debate each other, not debate the public.”

Danielsen said very few of the complaint-driven emails she’s received have been specific regarding what the concerns about the bylaw are. She reiterated council has not said it would pass the bylaw by any specific date.

“This is not a bylaw that’s complete, it’s a draft,” she

“

It seems to be such a divisive topic, and it’s basically you’re either for or against, and I truly believe that there’s a middle ground ... Everybody cares about the lake health.

— Andrea Roberts, Dysart et al mayor

said. “And we’re consulting people and gathering information to help us make the correct document.”

Roberts said she’d been approached by a number of people who’d be interested in being part of some kind of advisory committee. “Would it not be something that we appoint as an ad hoc committee of county council, and it would be at our discretion of who we feel would be best represented ... of interested parties, and professional parties, of scientists, of environmental engineers and that type of thing, and we could create, who we feel would be best on that advisory committee,” Roberts said.

Moffatt reiterated her hesitancy about creating that kind of group. “In the beginning, there was some talk about some kind of ad hoc committee,” Moffatt said. “And I’ll be very frank, some of the really crappy things that were done by some of the people in the community who purported to want to be on that ad hoc committee, including threats and withdrawals of business, and just some really horrible things in the community ... I wouldn’t support any of those people being involved in any of this, because they’re incredibly biased, they’ve made some incredible missteps in the community, have generated a lot of unnecessary infighting. I think ultimately it’s our job as the people who were elected to listen to the public. Our problem now, I think, it’s all the noise that’s out there. We can’t address the misinformation without a dedicated information campaign, and we can’t do that without dedicated resources and time, out of what budget? And so I don’t know that going to some sort of consulting group is going to assuage the concerns that are out there, because there will just be accusations of, all your people were handpicked.”

Danielsen said she was not comfortable with an ad hoc group being led by someone outside of the county government. “I think that that just splits things down the middle,” Danielsen. “This is the group that’s responsible for making the decisions. I have some concerns about that, but that’s something we can talk about again.”

Councillors agreed that a special meeting would be scheduled for further discussion.

Chamber welcomes new ED, continues to promote local programs

MIKE BAKER

Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce is hoping for a much better year in 2021.

While the COVID-19 pandemic brought a continuous flow of problems to the doors of the local business community in 2020, the chamber says its members are pushing forward defiantly in the face of adversity and are

planning for a recovery as the new year progresses.

In a bid to help their businesses, the chamber is continuing to promote six new initiatives designed to support entrepreneurs from across Haliburton County.

The Chamber Partnership Initiative, launched in November, ensures that age subsidy funding and student placements are seamless and easy for local businesses to access, aiding youth development and integration across the Highlands and providing chamber members with much-needed subsidies during this difficult time.

Rolled out in October, the BuyCloseBy Season pro-

gram raises awareness on the importance of shopping locally.

A new online training platform, also rolled out in October, provides members with access to affordable, modern training for their employees and is centred on safe, respectful workplaces, including WHMIS, diversity and inclusion training.

Another new initiative is Barter Pay, a program that allows local businesses to trade their goods and services for other things they may want or need. With over 4,000 firms across Canada tapped into this initiative, the chamber says it is a “great program that will enable you to continue to invest in your business even when cash flow is uncertain.”

There will be a new woman at the wheel of the local chamber in 2021, as Amanda Coon replaces the departing Jennifer Locke.

“The board is excited to work with Amanda, and we are confident that the chamber is in good hands,” said Andrea Strano, chamber president. “Under Amanda’s guidance, the chamber will be well positioned to thrive and continue to support our members during these challenging times, for years to come.”

Check out next week’s edition of the for more on Amanda and her plans for the Highlands Chamber of Commerce.

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County to create economic development position

CHAD INGRAM

Staff Reporter

Haliburton County council will create an economic development officer position for the county, as well as work toward joint procurement of goods and services for the county and its four lower-tier municipalities.

During a special meeting on Jan. 13, councillors decided those would be two priority items for 2021 stemming from the service delivery review the county had completed for itself and its lower-tier governments, and which council received from Toronto-based consulting firm StrategyCorp in December. That review culminated with a 140-page report which lays out a host of recommendations, categorized into 12 priority areas: roads, bridges and drainage; fire services; waste management; co-ordinated building, septic and bylaw services; planning services; economic development; collaborative procurement; integrated digital strategy; co-ordinated legal services; human resources co-ordination; communications; and overall co-ordination.

The report also identifies potential timelines for the completion of this work, staggered between 2021 and 2026, although council will choose what priorities it believes should be dealt with at what time. Minden Hills Mayor Brent Devolin noted the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic might delay work in some areas.

It was clear the No. 1 priority was the

creation of an economic development position at the upper-tier level. While the county once served an economic development role, with tourism and economic development grouped into one department, since 2013, it has focused on tourism marketing, with economic development left to the lower-tier municipalities. Highlands East is the only one of the four lower-tier governments that has consistently had an economic development role in place.

"I think we need to start low and go slow," Algonquin Highlands Mayor Carol Moffatt said of the numerous recommendations. "My No. 1 choice is economic development in this year's budget."

Moffatt said there were some recommendations – the standardization of land-fill regulations and operations, throughout the county, for example – that were much more complicated and would require a large amount of in-house work to bring to fruition.

Other members of council agreed that creating an economic development position should be the first of the recommendations to be acted upon, with Algonquin Highlands Deputy Mayor and County Warden Liz Danielsen noting the economic repercussions of the pandemic exacerbated the need for the role.

"I think it's a wise move, even in these times," agreed Highlands East Mayor Dave Burton.

Dysart et al Deputy Pat Kennedy said he agreed with the creation of the position, but wanted to see key performance indicators put in place, and for the job description to be specific about what the

role of economic development officer would look like. Council plans to move ahead with the creation of the job in the first quarter of the year.

Councillors also agreed they would begin exploring joint procurement of goods and services, if not necessarily through the hiring of a procurement specialist, which was another recommendation from the report.

"A lot of the hard savings in the document come from procurement," said chief

administrative officer Mike Rutter. The report indicates \$900,000 of saving per year that could be achieved through collective procurement.

Another recommendation councillors agreed could probably be easily achieved was joint legal services or the creation of an in-house lawyer position for the county and townships, all of which currently contract out their legal work. Council will be receiving staff input on the matter.

New Cases Reported Today							
4	5	10					
Haliburton	KawarthaLakes	Northumberland					
Total Confirmed Cases to Date *							
43	336	345	724				
Haliburton (HAL)	Kawartha Lakes (CKL)	Northumberland (NTH)	HKPRDHU				
Note: *Total cases by County and for the Health Unit overall may increase or decrease from previously reported counts as cases may be reassigned to or from the HKPRDHU based on case investigation details and routine data cleaning.							
COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths by County *							
County	Cases Not Resolved	Cases Resolved	Current High-Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Deaths among Confirmed Cases	Deaths among Probable Cases
Haliburton	5	38	14	0	1	0	0
Kawartha Lakes	21	292	69	2	20	23	13
Northumberland	44	295	62	0	8	6	0
COVID-19 Contacts, Cases, Hospitalizations, and Deaths, HKPRDHU							
All Counties	Cases Not Resolved	Cases Resolved	Current High-Risk Contacts	Current Probable Cases	Hospitalizations (Total to date)	Deaths among Confirmed Cases	Deaths among Probable Cases
HKPRDHU	70	625	163 **	2	29	29	13

Confirmed COVID-19 cases update

Four new confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Haliburton County were reported on Jan. 18 by the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District health unit. In Haliburton County there are five unresolved cases of a total 43 total cases, and 14 current high-risk contacts. For more information visit www.hkpr.on.ca. /Screenshot from the HKPRD health unit website

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Forever in our memories: Creighton Feir

He's finally gone

BRACE YOURSELVES people, the United States of America are on the verge of re-entering the civilized world.

It's a date that, I would imagine, has long been marked down, highlighted and circled in millions of calendars across the continent, and indeed the world – Jan. 20, 2021. The day that Donald Trump is, finally, forced to relinquish his presidency and retreat back from whence he came.

He does so having failed on the most grandiose of scales. After building his entire campaign around the catchy, yet absurdly ambiguous promise to 'Make America Great Again', Trump instead leaves behind a legacy of hate, deception and incompetency.

The man who became almost universally known as America's principal 'Liar-in-Chief' leaves the country in a much worse position than he found it. Sure, a big reason for that is the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. While there's nothing Trump could have done to stop the initial outbreak, there are plenty of measures he could, and should, have taken to stop the spread of the virus across the States.

No country has been hit harder by COVID-19. Just shy of 25 million people have contracted the virus in the US, while, as of Monday morning, 407,212 had died. Both of those numbers are more double those reported by the second most impacted country – India.

Some of his other doozies over the years include: withdrawing the USA from the Paris Climate Agreement; imposing a travel ban, which he often referred to as the "Muslim ban", on residents of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen; continuously attacking the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act introduced by his predecessor Barack Obama; and

his many strange, seemingly racially-motivated attacks on both individuals and groups of people over the past four years.

Most eye-opening in that regard was a 2019 tweet, where he told four congresswomen of colour they should "go back and help fix the totally broken and crime infested places from which they came" after taking umbrage with their calls for social change. Of those four women, three were born and raised in the US, while the fourth immigrated to the States at a young age.

Trump spent months ignoring the Black Lives Matter movement, before eventually going on to call it "toxic propaganda" and a "symbol of hate" as protestors, many of them Black, resorted to rioting in some communities. He was strangely quiet, however, when a predominantly white group attacked the United States Congress on Jan. 6, in an attempt to overturn the defeat to president-elect Joe Biden in last November's election.

On reflection, it's probably best that he didn't speak out. As evidenced by an ongoing count managed by the *Washington Post*, you could rarely believe a word Trump said. Over the course of his 1,455 days in office, the *Post* claims that Trump has made 30,529 false or misleading claims. At a rate of 21 false claims per day, Trump redefined what it is to be an untrustworthy politician.

For his part, Biden aims to hit the ground running this week, having prepared several executive orders he plans to push through on his first day in office – most of them righting some of the many, many wrongs Trump approved during his ill-fated tenure.

Finally, perhaps for the first time since 2016, there's reason for our neighbours to the south to feel optimistic for the future.



mike baker

Editorial



Colourful reminder of summer

by Darren Lum

Memories

AS YOU SIT to read this article it is likely day 6 or 7 or 8 of our "stay at home" provincial strategy to help curb the spread of COVID 19.

As you know, my intention is to hear from you about the ways that you are coping and the good news stories that you have to share about your life and what you are learning during this unique time in history. This week's story comes from JoAnn Sloan who, while cleaning her house during COVID, stumbled across an old tupperware container that was at least 50 years old. She discovered a collection of her parents' home movies. As she dug through the reels, she remembered many Saturday evenings gathering in the living room for movie nights with her cousins. There was always lots of laughter as her dad attempted to thread the film through the projector (I think we can all remember that!). The screen was a white bed sheet and everyone enjoyed watching themselves in the movies.

JoAnn put the box of films aside and continued on cleaning and living within the requirements of COVID. Several months passed by and she found she couldn't stop thinking about the tupperware container and the movies, so she decided to go on a search to find an old projector to watch them. After lots of searching, she found one at our favourite place to go, the Thrift Warehouse. She took the projector home and after lots of tinkering and adjusting she got it to work and was able to watch all of her old home movies.

"There they were; pictures of my brother and I, my mom and dad, and our old dog Joe. There were films of our camping adventures, film of skat-

ing on the homemade rink in our backyard; a trip to California visiting cousins; trips to Disneyland, the Santa Monica pier and a trip across the Golden Gate bridge in San Francisco. There was footage of my Dad marching in parades at the volunteer firefighters' conventions and footage of various weddings, some that I did not recognize.

There were pictures of my brother and I dressed up in clown outfits dancing around doing somersaults and handstands on the front lawn; pictures of our summer days at the cottage, swimming and our several attempts at water skiing. Some films showed dad and his days at the hunt camp.

These were all classics and grand memories of my childhood. And surprisingly, they were all still well preserved. I was happy that I spent the time to do this, to find a projector and view all the memories of days gone by. I was reminded of the simplicity of our lives. It reminded me of the pleasures we felt in the smallest of things.

Watching the movies reminded me to slow down. Life is not a race. Take time to enjoy life; take deep breaths and enjoy the moments. Life is just like a movie- there is a beginning, a story line, and a final conclusion.

So through all of these pandemic days, I have realized that I want to remember to enjoy each day that life has to offer and keep adding more wonderful memories into my reel of life.

Thanks so much to JoAnn for sharing your story and reminding us to take time and continue to build memories. If you have a story to share you can send it to me at haliburtonyoga@gmail.com. Stay strong everyone!

Tales from
the great



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points of view

Dad jokes and the pandemic

LATELY, IN case you haven't noticed, we are in the midst of a pandemic. People are getting sick and spreading a serious virus; many are getting very sick and others are dying. It is horrible.

The vast majority of us are compliant. We are wearing masks, avoiding close social contact, washing our hands a lot, and even arguing about the need for such measures to people who think they know better. Oh, and while this is all happening, the economy is taking a real hit and businesses and people are suffering greatly. And don't even get me started about all the mental health issues this is aggravating. It is truly sad.

In short, this pandemic is leaving heartache in its wake.

As you might have guessed, this is not exactly a fine time to be a humourist. For there is nothing funny about any of this.



steve
galea

Loon Tales

Still, I am paid to make attempts at humour – and, sadly, my compensation is commensurate with my talent.

With that in mind, I have been working on a few original dad jokes. My original intent was to inflict them upon my kids, if only to remind them that there are still things worse than COVID-19.

But then I thought better. So, I am instead unleashing these jokes upon the general public as part of an effort as a humour columnist to wage war upon COVID-19 and even -20.

The goal of this column is to stop the pandemic. You see, if we don't all follow the prescribed precautions and stop it by summer, I promise you there will be more of what follows. You have been warned.

With that in mind, here is the first course of hard dad-joke medicine.

What did the mask-wearing person say to the other mask-wearing person?

No one knows.

Or how about: How do anarchists get through a pandemic? By anti-social distancing.

Still not taking this seriously? All right. Take this.

What's the safest way to run a three-legged race in a pandemic? Six feet apart.

Here's a one-liner: An asymptomatic guy walks into a bar. It hurt.

I'm not particularly proud of this one: Why can't you tell a toilet paper hoarder to leave some for the rest of us? Because no matter what you say, they won't give a sheet.

Then there is this.

What do you say to a person who tells you he has never washed his hands or wore a mask throughout the whole pandemic? You're full of it.

Why do you give an anti-vaxxer a kick in the pants? Because they don't want a shot in the arm.

What do you say to a person who is not following lockdown orders? I hear you and ICU.

Why do province-wide pandemic precautions cost so much? Because they only work overtime.

How many maskless people does it take to screw in a light-bulb? One, but first you've got to convince him the darkness is real.

Why do people wear their masks so far below their nose? Because if they wear them so far above their nose, they can't see.

That's the first round with my A-list material. Next time, I swear it will be much worse.

Wear a mask. Social distance. Follow our health unit and provincial guidelines. Be kind to others, and I promise you, this will never happen again.



pic of the past

Neil Howe, Al Blanchard and Bob Long were at Extendicare on Dec. 14, 1976 to help the Fort Irwin Resident Ladies' Association entertain. The ladies' association brought Christmas corsages and delicious food for everyone. It was a good way to get into the holiday season.

letters to the editor

It's time for national standards for long-term and home care

To the Editor,

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown we can no longer afford to ignore the long-standing issues with long-term care and home care. More than 80 per cent of COVID-19 deaths in Canada occurred in long-term care facilities, the highest proportion – by a longshot – among the 14 developed countries that track this data. Reports from the Canadian Armed Forces detailed the tragic conditions in our long-term care homes, conditions that were made worse by COVID-19 but that sounded all too familiar to those with experience with long-term care.

Add to this the fact that Canadians are living longer and more of us are dealing with chronic conditions and diseases, especially as we age. By the end of this decade, those aged 65 and older will make up almost a quarter of the population. The demand on the health-care system is only

going to increase.

Our health-care system has not kept pace with Canada's aging population, and if we do not make changes soon, we will not be equipped to meet the health needs of Canadians. It is time we include older adult care in our national health framework and start managing, funding and regulating long-term and home care in the same way as other parts of our system: with national standards tied to funding.

National standards will guarantee a standard level of quality care, the availability of equitable and consistent services across the country, and adequate levels of funding for these types of care.

As we look to the new year, all levels of government must resolve to work together to fix long-term and home care and ensure older adults can access the care they need now and in the future.

Cheryl O'Brien

Shoreline bylaw to benefit county's lakes

To the Editor,

We all want both clean, healthy lakes in Haliburton County and a healthy economy for our area. Nobody wants to put anybody's business at risk.

The need for the Shoreline Preservation bylaw has arisen because natural shoreline vegetation has been progressively removed to the point that harmful substances that could have been absorbed by the deep roots of native plants have instead been allowed to wash into our lakes. Unfortunately, the removal of shoreline vegetation escalated during the summer of 2020.

Nobody wants to see blue-green algae floating along their shoreline. It is unsightly and can be toxic. An excess of phosphorus, warming of lakes due to climate change and insufficient shoreline vegetation are the main reasons that blue-green algae blooms occur. It has been scientifically established that septic systems are the single

most important source of phosphorus entering our lakes and it also been clearly established that natural well-vegetated shorelines absorb and intercept phosphorus that would otherwise get into our lakes. Well established vegetation can also protect the shoreline from the wakes of big boats.

Yes, the bylaw is an extensive, complex document, but county staff have tried their best to modify it so that it is easier to understand and implement. Exceptions in the bylaw allow for adequate access to the shoreline and branches can be pruned to allow a view of the lake from the cottage.

For those who own properties that are lacking sufficient vegetation, the Coalition of Haliburton Associations have information on their website to make it easy to re-naturalize.

We can only have a robust economy if our lakes are clean and healthy.

Susan Hay, EHI President
On behalf of Environment Haliburton

Upcoming Connections show reflection of our world

DARREN LUM

Staff Reporter

This story is a follow-up to an article called, *Daily account of the pandemic in self-portraits*, which was published in the *Echo* on May 5.

It's been almost a year since the first lockdown was implemented in Ontario and artist Rossana Dewey started her artistic journey of self-reflection and introspection related to the pandemic.

Since then the provincial number of reported COVID-19 cases and deaths have risen to unprecedented figures, causing another lockdown that started on Boxing Day.

The calendar shows close to nine months has elapsed, but it seems so much longer for Dewey, who had completed a daily account of how she was processing the first lockdown with daily self-portraits that she called a diary, which ended after the first lockdown.

She admits this second lockdown has brought a different tone because, in a typical year, once the winter is over there is a greater feeling of optimism.

"It's funny. Before it felt hopeful. Like spring is coming, it's going to get better. Now, I am kind of forcing myself to be hopeful. I'm trying to keep my mind on hope," she said.

Dewey said she and her husband felt down after hearing the province's announcement of the stricter measures in addition to the lockdown that started on Boxing Day.

"Here we go again ... It's really worked on our emotional state. It's my husband and I all the time. He's working. He's an essential worker so he goes in, but he works with nobody so he's by himself all day. I'm his only person. It does. It really starts to eat away at you after this time. It's a long time," she said.

The first collection of self-portraits has progressed to a broader approach, which has included still-life paintings that show the boxes and packaging she has received during the pandemic, a collection of oil paintings of friends that will form one piece to resemble what a Zoom meeting screen looks like with multiple squares of heads, synonymous with the virtual meets used by people for social and for commercial reasons, and a new set of self-portraits using a mono-printing technique.

It was the lockdown that drew her back to the studio to do another set of self-portraits.

Started in January to keep her engaged to her art, her newest set of self-portraits are made using a mono-print technique. Each day she completes one. They are on a piece of paper, measuring close to 5 x 7 and is about giving her a creative outlet. The results are more experimental by virtue of the printing technique, which leaves a lot to chance with how she applies paint to a copper plate and then transfers the negative image to arrive at a finished image.

"The first set felt more emotional. With this, it feels more ... I'm getting different results. They're not planned. Once you pull the print it's unknown," she said.

Pointing over to her collection of first lockdown self-portraits under her window, she said, "This one I was showing more how I felt just from my emotion where this is more of a surprise. Maybe it's kind of like the whole situation. OK, everything is a surprise every day. What's going to happen next?" she said.

She plans to continue this work for the duration of this lockdown.

Her other work includes still-life work, which she calls, the *Boxed in Series*.

Behind her on the studio wall, there are several



Highlands artist Rossana Dewey sits in her studio surrounded by work inspired by the pandemic. Dewey said her piece tentatively called, *The Zoom Room*, which includes painted portraits of her friends during Zoom sessions, will be part of this year's Rails End Gallery show, Connection Annual Salon Exhibition. Open to gallery members to submit their work, the show runs from Feb. 27 until April 17. All work is available to view through the gallery's social media platforms Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and is for sale online. /DARREN LUM Staff

paintings, showing cityscapes created from seeing the arrangement of boxes and packaging lying on a table underneath, which were created by Dewey. It's a possible unconscious manifestation of what she has not been able to see since the first lockdown.

And like the title, it's a manifestation of her personal feelings.

"A lot of it has to do with the fact that I feel boxed in," she said.

She laughs about the absurdity of the concept of how her boxes travel more than her now.

"I'm waiting on a laptop and it went from Ottawa, went to Montreal and now it's in Toronto and I'm waiting for it. I'm like – that box has travelled more than me," she said. "That seems to be happening to us all. We're surrounded by boxes and deliveries, but we're going nowhere."

Like everyone, Zoom has become ubiquitous to a safe method for communication and interactions with loved ones.

Dewey said the upcoming Rails End Gallery show, Connection Annual Salon Exhibition, made her think about how she stays in touch with friends and loved ones.

It was the impetus behind the piece tentatively called *The Zoom Room*, when she painted the likeness of her friends as they appeared on Zoom to her.

The 13 painted portraits of her friends that will be brought together to resemble what people see when they are in a Zoom session while on the computer or mobile device. It's an image that people can relate to and that her approach to not telling her subjects she was painting them was to show them as they are. She captured each individual as they were and how they appeared at their homes during meetings in November and December.

"I wanted to capture the fact that they weren't perfect. Some people were in their bedrooms. Some people were in their kitchens. Some people were in their living rooms. And I wanted to capture that environment behind them. So that was really fun," she said, describing the artistic process.

All the subjects know their likenesses will be part of the piece that will be featured in the exhibition.

Dewey said her likeness won't appear, but her "signature" will be present in a frame like the Zoom meeting's administrator.

The gallery member show will be held from Feb. 27 to April 17. All work is available to view through the gallery's social media platforms Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, and is for sale online with 70 per cent going to the artist.

All of this work is part of an effort to show the affects the pandemic has had on society. She said this collection of work will be part of a proposal to exhibit them together in the future.

Dewey believes art is important to document what is happening and how people are feeling.

Time alone as people shelter in place has left a lot of time for thinking and for introspection.

"With all this time to ourselves, what's my purpose? You question everything. What should I do? What's the future going to be like? You start to think, what's important? You start to analyze your own value system. What do you want to do? Like, where do you want to go? Normally, I wouldn't be thinking so much," she said.

The one thing, she said, that she has noticed about herself is that she is giving more thought to what is important.

"What do I miss the most? It's people," she said.



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from page 2

ive of the stay-at-home order and I hope it will have the desired effect of getting a better handle, better control, of this virus," he said. "We're in a race against the virus. We have a variant now that is more transmissible ... We need to get it controlled so that we can get vaccines into arms and protect people before they are exposed to this. So travel outside one's own local community should not be undertaken because it can transfer the virus from a place where there perhaps isn't too much activity, to a place where there is."

Contact tracing effective

When a positive test is confirmed, there are two things the local public health unit puts into place. First, said Gemmill, the health unit contacts that person and relays that they must isolate for 10 days, which is the current national recommendation. After that 10-day isolation period, Gemmill said at that point the person is no longer in a position to spread the infection to others and can be released from isolation. Additionally, the health unit asks the person where they might have been during the period in which they have been infectious to others.

"We take that range of time and we say, tell us everything you've done and the contact you've had with other people, who are they, what are their phone numbers and email addresses, so we can get in touch with them," said Gemmill. "These are called the high-risk contacts."

Quarantine for those who might be sick is 14 days, when the potential for them to show symptoms might become more clear.

He said there are some situations where someone would not be considered a high-risk contact – if, for example, a delivery person dropped a box off and stayed two metres apart – but he said he has seen contacts through household members or those at gatherings, including weddings, hockey games, and holiday gatherings.

"We have to depend, clearly, on the honesty and the memory of the case, of where they've been each day, who they saw, how much time they've spent with them, under what circumstances and so on and that's how we follow this up. I can tell you, we scour, and I'm very impressed with how the people who are doing case and contact follow-up at [the health unit] really leave no stone unturned to find people, to get them into isolation."

Gemmill said sometimes it's still hard to find some contacts, or the person with the confirmed case of COVID-19 doesn't recall their prior days accurately.

"It doesn't always work perfectly, I mentioned before, sometimes people's memories don't work too well, sometimes their assessment of the situation is perhaps a little different than actually happened, but we have to base it on trusting that people are

telling us to the best of their ability."

He said well over 90 per cent of people who have been in contact with someone with a confirmed case are being contacted.

"It's a long-standing tried and true approach to communicable diseases," he said of the process, which was in place prior to his own involvement in public health which began 40 years ago.

Request for more details on confirmed cases

Gemmill was asked by a member of the press if he thought reporting of confirmed case statistics could or should include more specific information about a person's location, noting the town they live in rather than the broader county information that is currently reported. Requests have been made regarding this information to the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario, with a decision expected to be made in the upcoming weeks.

"This is an ongoing issue that I think needs to get resolved," said Gemmill. "It's not an issue just here, it's an issue in other places, I know. In the absence of provincial guidelines on how to do this, of course every local public health agency is doing their presentation of their case counts in different ways."

Gemmill said he had gone over websites of different local public health agencies, to see how information was being shared.

"And it is a mixed bag, we're not the only ones doing it by county," he said, reiterating that the rationale for releasing information by county was to protect privacy information of those in rural areas with sparse population, and reduce potential for stigma. He looked forward to hearing from the Information and Privacy Commissioner.

"I actually welcome that, and we expect ... that we'll hear in the next couple of weeks about what is the right way to do this. We will be guided by that and whatever the Information and Privacy Commissioner suggests to us, we are going to do, and I hope that it will actually maybe set a standard for across Ontario so that everybody will be doing things in a similar way and we don't have the inconsistency that causes questions."

Gemmill said the bottom line is that everyone in the province should behave as though, when they are with other people, they are potentially being exposed, regardless of where confirmed cases have been identified, but that if the guidance returned from the Information and Privacy Commissioner suggested the health unit should be giving more information, they would.

"I believe in transparency and I believe that we should be giving as much information as people need to understand what's going on. I think the most important thing to understand about this is that this winter's virus is on the way up, in wave two, and people need to be guided by that."

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Lakefront Property Owners,

The Haliburton County Home Builders Association has spent the last few weeks bringing forward a few facts regarding the proposed Shoreline By-law that the County of Haliburton is attempting to implement. The goal of our media campaign is to bring awareness of the By-law to the waterfront property owners in the County. We encourage you to educate yourself on what this By-law is proposing and make your voice heard by contacting your elected officials. We also invite you to visit <https://wadein.haliburtoncounty.ca> to submit your comments / concerns. Here are a few points that the HCHBA has identified as items that need to be addressed prior to finalizing a Shoreline By-law:

- A Task Force should be assembled that will include representatives from the County, Trades, and Waterfront Property Owners. This will allow all groups to have their input in the creation of an effective and functional Shoreline By-law.
- A research and education initiative regarding the water quality of our local water bodies needs to be undertaken by the County of Haliburton. The research should be commissioned by the County and all findings should be available to the public.
- The permit process / requirements for the proposed By-law needs to be clear, concise, and easy to understand. Currently a large project will require you to prepare a Site Alteration Plan. The requirements for the Site Alteration Plan are far too extensive. For example, as it is currently stated in Schedule 'A' you will be required to identify ***'The location and species types of vegetative cover, including the species and size of trees and shrubs.'*** If this is taken as it is written it could take days to map all of the trees and shrubs on a larger waterfront property.

If you have any questions, we at the HCHBA recommend that you write, email, or call your municipal elected officials with your comments or concerns. The Draft Bylaw and Questions and Answers can be found on our website under 'Resources' at www.hchba.ca



Haliburton County
Home Builders Association
www.hchba.ca

#Building with the Environment in Mind

Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary busy with deer, foxes, owls as new year begins

from page 3

confuse them if they're in a heated room."

While the foxes will be released back to their respective territories, Melichar said they can get to know each other and meet up if they wish.

"The nice thing is they're not alone," she said. "They're very social. They do enjoy their company. At one time, we had seven foxes in one area. They keep their space but play with each other. They're actually quite nice animals, no bickering as long as they have their own food. You can't do that with most animals."

Deer

"Our fawns are out of 'lockdown,'" announced a Dec. 23 video on the Sanctuary's Facebook page, which shared highlights of the release of seven orphaned or injured fawns just before Christmas.

Fawns usually begin coming to the Sanctuary in May, up until the middle of July, where they are raised together, enabling them to make a group, form a herd and potentially stay together upon their release.

"We check to see what the weather's going to bring and if there's a lot of deep snow, we would keep them over winter, protect them and release them in the spring, because they're little," said Melichar. "They need to be able to browse branches off of trees, but if there's a lot of deep snow those branches are usually browsed by the older deer already, and by the time our little ones go out there they can't reach them anymore."

Of the seven released, two have branched off on their own but the other

five are sticking together.

"We're still supplementing them every day," said Melichar. "They've been released, they're totally free and wild, but they're creatures of habit so we feed them, and the local herd of deer come too, they come and mingle together and we introduce them to each other."

Melichar said deer typically travel the same route and same trails often, and are "pretty much like clockwork," bedding down for her in front of the feeders if she's not ready and waiting when they arrive.

Essential service

"We are here, we're open, we are taking COVID precautions, but people can call us for advice if they see something they're concerned about," said Melichar.

Those interested in learning more about the happenings at the Sanctuary can sign up for a monthly e-newsletter, and those interested in volunteering are welcome to apply – Melichar said they will be in need of volunteers this year and hope to bring more helping hands in this spring, with strict procedures to keep in line with public health guidelines. Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary is a volunteer-based charity that does not charge for service and is appreciative to the public for monetary donations or help fulfilling a wish list for supplies and materials as seen on their website.

Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary is located at 2146 Duck Lake Road in Minden. For more information call 705-286-1133, email info@woodlandswildlifesanctuary.ca, follow the charity on Facebook or visit www.woodlandswildlifesanctuary.ca.



Embracing winter's wonder

Located just outside West Guilford, Robin Bell snowshoes his private trail while surrounded by natural growth and trees he planted with his wife close to 30 years ago, bringing back a stand of trees to what was used for grazing decades before he moved there. Bell regularly snowshoes for exercise and part of a measure to pack down the trail so he can use it to wear his lighter snowshoes designed for running. /DARREN LUM Staff



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SIRCH staff and volunteers prepare food for the Community Kitchen program, which distributes free meals to vulnerable and low income individuals throughout Haliburton County. Money raised from this year's Gifts From The Heart campaign will ensure this program continues. The ongoing pandemic has seen a surge in meal requests and the need continues to grow.

Gifts from the Heart

Thanks to you, we met our fundraising goal, which will be used to help support individuals and families who require prepared meals!

Your generous donation makes a difference.

Here's how:

It helps fund the Community Kitchen frozen prepared meal program, where nutritious meals, soups, and fruit desserts are distributed through SIRCH and other service providers.

We are currently cooking about 2,000-2,500 meals each month to give out to those in need.

To date approximately 25,000 free meals have been given out during the past 10 months.

Lunch Is On Us, a weekly program where anyone can take out a free hot lunch on Wednesday.

Thank you for supporting the 2020
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was raised to fund a new portable digital x-ray machine for the Haliburton ER, complementing the one recently implemented at the Minden site - as well as contributing to critical Community Support Services programs – including an additional 630 meals for seniors in need, and funding 65 trips for medically-required transportation.

Thank you to so many generous individuals, groups, and businesses, including:

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Dysart launching new Snow Sculpture contest

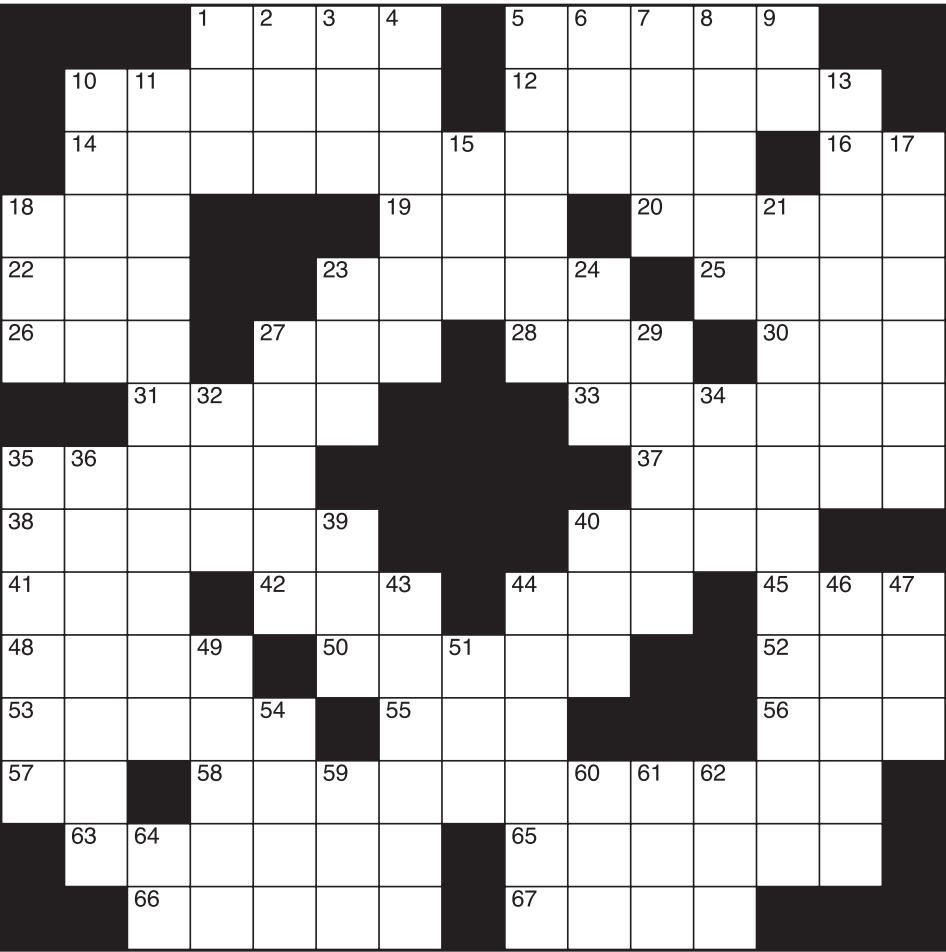
from page 1 hundreds that attended.
One of the big crowd draws was the

Crossword brought to you by

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- CLUES ACROSS**

 - 1. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
 - 5. 2014 Winter Olympics host
 - 10. Soft fabric
 - 12. Covered in flowers
 - 14. Works at a college or university
 - 16. Keeps us cool
 - 18. Corpuscle count (abbr.)
 - 19. Similar
 - 20. Birthplace of Muhammad
 - 22. They __
 - 23. Preamble to a book
 - 25. Southern China people
 - 26. Hair product
 - 27. The woman
 - 28. Partner to cheese
 - 30. One point north of due east
 - 31. Round Dutch cheese
 - 33. Be in awe of
 - 35. Christmas song
 - 37. Emits coherent radiation
 - 38. Something that is comparable to another
 - 40. Monetary unit
 - 41. The cutting part of a drill
 - 42. Resinlike substance secreted by certain insects
- CLUES DOWN**

 - 1. Nowhere to be found (abbr.)
 - 2. Not new
 - 3. Brew
 - 4. Stain with mud
 - 5. Chief or leader
 - 6. Luke Skywalker's mentor __-Wan
 - 7. Type of sauce
 - 8. Sharpens
 - 9. Priestess loved by Zeus
 - 10. Jean Henri __, French entomologist
 - 11. Regulates supply of fuel
 - 12. Disturbing and horri-
- CLUES ACROSS**

 - 44. Touch lightly
 - 45. Toyota SUV
 - 48. __ and Andy, TV show
 - 50. Made less dangerous
 - 52. Assets under management (abbr.)
 - 53. Nostrils
 - 55. Moved quickly
 - 56. Thai isthmus
 - 57. TV personality Roker
 - 58. Honors anew
 - 63. Rags
 - 65. One who obtains pleasure from inflicting pain or others
 - 66. Marketplaces
 - 67. Dark brown or black
- CLUES DOWN**

 - 15. Equal (prefix)
 - 17. Hosts film festival
 - 18. Tattered piece of clothing
 - 21. Rich desserts
 - 23. Unique motor (abbr.)
 - 24. Disfigure
 - 27. Chemical substance
 - 29. Slang for famous person
 - 32. Department of Labor
 - 34. The A-team rode around in one
 - 35. Beach cabin
 - 36. Living things
 - 39. Gun (slang)
 - 40. Disconsolate
 - 43. Stroke gently
 - 44. Actress Richards
 - 46. "Cletus Hogg" actor
 - 47. Returned material authorization (abbr.)
 - 49. Brazilian mountain range
 - 51. Upset
 - 54. One with supernatural insight
 - 59. Insecticide
 - 60. Taxi
 - 61. "Much __ about nothing"
 - 62. Cannister
 - 64. Popular clothing retailer

Answers on page 16

Haliburton and District Lions Club annual Polar Bear Challenge, which not only tested the mettle of locals and visitors with a run or swim in the frigid waters of Head Lake, but it also helped to raise thousands of dollars for the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation and the Hospital for Sick Children.

Lions Club member Jim Frost said the club had already decided before the township's decision to cancel the event in early December.

"With the concern of using warming/ changing sheds for the participants we had decided prior to that to cancel our polar dip anyway - it would not have been possible to run that type of event safely, for sure," he wrote in an email. "A virtual event was briefly considered, as was an event where participants might do their own dip or ice bucket challenge, but as there could be no control for safety protocols, and the liability attached to this, we decided not to pursue this type of event. We look forward to this event continuing in 2022."

The township has been encouraging Dysart residents to participate in its Snow Sculpture contest offering a \$50 gift card to the winner and a \$25 gift card for second and third place.

"We have also launched a Snow Sculpture contest to try and give the community something to do amidst all the shutdowns. The contest is open to households and individuals in Dysart et al. I will be reaching out to recreation staff at

the other municipalities to see if we can collaborate and offer a larger scale contest next year that encompasses the whole county," she wrote.

Mueller said the winner will be decided by online voting. It will be limited to one vote per email address to try and keep it as fair as possible.


Entries can be any size, but made mostly with snow.

Once the contest registration period (Jan. 15 to Feb. 15) closes, the township will post pictures of all the entries and will open it up for voting.

Mueller said the idea came from a discussion she had with her assistant Alyssa Sisson, who created the online platform in the autumn.

"At first we were thinking snowmen and having everyone gather in one spot. Then we started talking about the different communities. We didn't do much about it and wanted to see how the lights contest went. When the lockdown was announced prior to Christmas, I thought, we need to do something. That's when I brought the Snow Sculpture idea forward to our Emergency Control Group. They were fully supportive and thought it was a good idea. I really would like to see this grow to be a county-wide event," she wrote.

Register at the township website www.dysartetl.ca. For more information email recreation@dysartetl.ca or telephone 705-457-1740 ext. 662.



**COUNTY OF HALIBURTON
LAND DIVISION COMMITTEE
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CONSENT**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 53(5)(a) of the Planning Act and Section 3, O.Reg. 197/96, as amended, that the following Applications for Consent have been submitted to the Haliburton County Land Division Committee, the consent granting authority in these matters.

AND FURTHER THAT An electronic meeting will be held **Monday, February 8, 2021 at 7:00 P.M.** to consider these applications.

AND FURTHER THAT this meeting will be held through remote electronic participation in accordance with the Municipal Act, 2001, as amended by Bill 187, the Municipal Emergency Act, 2020 and an Order in Council of March 28, 2020, which amended the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act and prohibits organized public events of more than five people.

The media and the general public can view the Land Division Committee meeting webcast via the County of Haliburton YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/g3kZDOPpxSY>

AND FURTHER THAT these Applications for Consent will be heard by the Land Division Committee:

- 1. File No. H-020/20
Applicant: Sharran Steinburg
Location of the Property: Pt Lot 11, Concession 5, Geographic Township of Glamorgan, now in the Municipality of Highlands East
Nature of the Application: Lot Addition

Additional information regarding the above applications is available for public inspection electronically by request during regular business hours, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

If a person or public body that files an appeal of a decision of the Land Division Committee in respect of the proposed consent does not make written submissions to the Land Division Committee before it gives or refuses to give a provisional consent, the Local Planning Appeal Tribunal may dismiss the appeal.

If you wish to be notified of the decision of the Land Division Committee in respect of the proposed consent, you must make a written request to the undersigned.

Dated at the Township of Minden Hills 19 day of January, 2021.

Lisa Gillan
Secretary-Treasurer
Haliburton County Land Division Committee
11 Newcastle Street
P. O. Box 399
Minden, Ontario K0M 2K0
Telephone: (705) 286-1333
or 1-866-886-8815, Ext. 248
Fax: (705) 286-4829
E-mail: lgillan@county.haliburton.on.ca

Winsley celebrates history of printmaking

SUE TIFFIN

Staff Reporter

Meggan Winsley has certainly made her mark on Toronto.

The Haliburton-raised artist is drawing attention downtown in the city, her work being featured at the intersection of Queen Street West and Portland Street.

Winsley is one of 16 artists exhibiting in a public art project celebrating printmaking, in which selected artist's analogue prints are digitally reproduced on vinyl wraps that are installed on traffic signal control cabinets located at intersections throughout Toronto.

"This collaborative project aims to bring printmaking out of the private realm of the studio and into the public context of the streets, pushing analogue print media beyond the usual bounds of works on paper, and into new and unexpected contexts," reads a press release titled A Celebration of 50 Years of Print and Artist-Run Centres in Toronto from Open Studio Contemporary Printmaking Centre and the City of Toronto's StreetARToronto program.

"These sixteen adapted printmaking interventions form a route that highlights geographic locations of past and present artist-run centres, mapping the general migration of Toronto's artist-run scene from the city's downtown core, north-west to the Junction. Viewers are encouraged to participate in this cultural narrative by actively following the mapped route, in addition to discovering the boxes by chance as they navigate the city."

Winsley moved to Haliburton as a child in 1989, after cottaging on Canning Lake for many years.

"I always remember wanting to be an artist," she said, noting that her family home was filled with the paintings of her grandfather, Sydney Winsley, who was a self-taught painter, and her aunt, Margaret Gourley, an accomplished painter and author. "I can still picture the drawing I did of my future self with a black beret, purple shirt, palette and brush in hand, standing in front of an easel and canvas - my image of who I wanted to be when I grew up."

Winsley attended elementary and high school here, drawing for Marion Hare's column in this paper, contributing painted murals to the halls of Haliburton Highlands Secondary School and taking courses from John Leonard and Lynn Donoghue through the Sir Sanford Fleming summer art school program.

After high school she studied the Art Fundamentals program at Sheridan College - exhibiting at an art show at that time at the Rails End Gallery.

"I absolutely loved doing art full-time," she said. "I learned so much - even though it was just the basics/fundamentals. I wanted to carry on with the art making and considered getting into teaching so I enrolled at York University. The first year I only had one studio class per term and hated it so, after that, I made sure I always had two or three studio classes."

While studying an Honours Bachelor of Fine Arts at York University, her main focus was printmaking and photography, alongside drawing and painting.

"My first year at York, I enrolled in a screen printing and relief class because sculpture and photography were full," she said. "I absolutely fell in love with it. I then proceeded to take every possible print class available. I also became a studio monitor working in the studio. I learned screen, relief, intaglio and lithography. I had a most amazing professor in Barbara McGillivray."

Since then, Winsley's work - often with themes of pattern, decay, rot - has been shown or on exhibit throughout Canada, Australia, Taiwan, the UK and Scotland.

"One afternoon, in a library at the Art Gallery of Ontario, a tucked away library, my work was on display for the afternoon," said Winsley. "Not a huge deal but still - my work was on display at the AGO!"

Her artist statement says that her recent body of work is about "survival, and of wearing masks so that one might endure and overcome adversity."

"I tend to have a few projects or bodies of work on the go - vintage photography, vintage black and white photography printed as a CMYK, mouldy fruit, animal heads on human bodies in decrepit environments," she said. "I am truly interested in as something living or inanimate decays, rots, falls apart, when does it stop being what it originally was and when does it become something else...something new. Is it still as worthy?"

Winsley has been a member of Open Studio since 2005, and a part of Open Studio's education program since 2006, teaching the intro to screen printing class, and developing the CMYK screen printing, as well as the advanced screen printing classes. Her focus is on screen



Meggan Winsley teaches/demos at an Andy Warhol art exhibit. Winsley's work is currently featured as a vinyl wrap around a traffic signal control box at Queen Street West and Portland Street as part of an Open Studio, City of Toronto and StreetARToronto group exhibition project. /Submitted photo

printing, with a specialty in CMYK screen printing and printing large-scale. She's also taught at Centre3 in Hamilton, Imago in Moncton and the Art Centre at Central Tech, through the Toronto District School Board.

"I find teaching incredibly fulfilling," she said. "I get such a charge from seeing students grasp the skills of printing and walking away with prints and [joy]. I just love it. I also love seeing the different work folks come up with. It never gets boring - teaching or the artwork."

Of all the accomplishments and experiences along the way, Winsley said she is most proud simply that she is still printing - getting an idea, working on research and scrolling for something striking through the hundreds of images she has collected, pushing herself in scale or materials or number of layers, and seeing the idea come to fruition.

"It really is my happy place," she said.

During the pandemic's lockdown guidelines, Winsley adapted equipment to be able to create work at home when it wasn't possible to access the studio, making use of a pressure washer at a car wash near her apartment for the stage in the process that calls for removing the photo emulsion.

One day in the middle of pandemic stress, she walked with three screens to the nearby car wash, and found joy. It was cold. She was startled by pigeons joining her in the car wash. She slipped and fell on the way out.

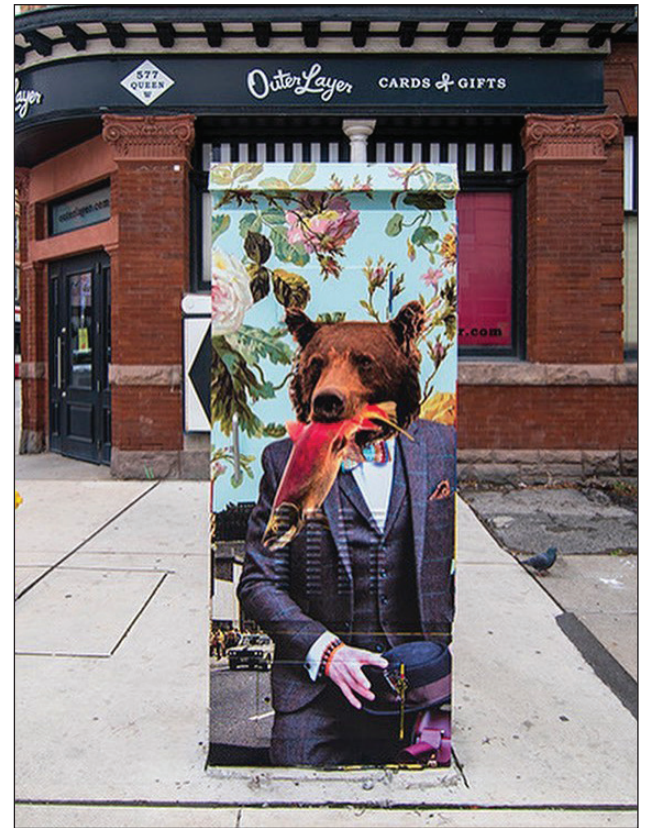
"But I was excited to be stripping the screens so that I could start fresh. I was excited thinking about what I was going to shoot onto the screen and print. With the lockdown, I have had to develop an at home studio - it is beyond Mickey Mouse, but it works. It has been a steep learning curve and I'm limited by size but I am making it work."

Winsley wanted to be an artist and she's done that, staying loyal to her dream and accomplishing her goals.

"I get to make art," she said. "To express myself how I see fit. It has definitely not been easy. There have been many setbacks, many tears, and I do not think I am anywhere close to being where I want to be, but - in some

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Meggan Winsley's work is seen here on a traffic signal control cabinet located at the intersection of Queen Street West and Portland Street in Toronto as part of Open Studio's 50th-anniversary project in partnership with City of Toronto's StreetARToronto Program. /Photo by Jason McCullough.

way - I'm en route, at the very least."

For more information about the A Celebration of 50 Years of Print and Artist-Run Centres in Toronto group exhibition, visit <https://openstudio.ca/exhibition/open-studio-x-city-of-toronto-streetartoronto-partnership/>. A Google map listing where each of the traffic signal control cabinets can be seen is available at that site.

NOTICE (Applicant -FUNK)

IN THE MATTER OF THE MUNICIPAL ACT AND IN THE MATTER OF A PROPOSED BY-LAW OF THE CORPORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF HIGHLANDS EAST TO CLOSE, STOP-UP AND CONVEY CERTAIN PORTIONS OF A ROAD ALLOWANCE FOR ROAD ALONG THE SHORE OF BILLINGS LAKE, MORE PARTICULARLY HEREINAFTER DESCRIBED.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to the *Municipal Act*, S.O. 2001, and the Municipal Procedures, that the Township Council of The Corporation of the Municipality of Highlands East proposes to consider and if deemed advisable, to pass a virtual meeting on **Tuesday, the 9th of February, 2021**, at 9:00 a.m., a By-Law to close, stop-up and convey to the adjacent land owners the following described lands:

Part of Road Allowance in front of Lot 31, Concession 7, Township of Glamorgan, Municipality of Highlands East, County of Haliburton, shown as Part 1 on Plan 19R-10255.

The Plan of Survey is available to you for inspection by making an appointment at the Municipality of Highlands East offices, Wilberforce, Ontario.

The above described lands, by resolution, have been declared to be surplus. If you wish to attend the virtual meeting, please call or email the Municipal Clerk prior to the day of the public meeting so you can be provided with a link or phone number for the meeting. If you do not have the capability to attend a virtual meeting, please provide written comments to the Municipal Clerk prior to the public meeting.

Any person or his or her counsel, solicitor or agent who attends the virtual meeting shall be afforded an opportunity to make representations in respect of the within matter.

AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if the public wishes to participate regarding the purchase of Shoreline Road Allowance please contact the Municipal Clerk.

DATED at the Municipality of Highlands East, Wilberforce, Ontario this 19th day of January, 2021.

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600 FUNERAL SERVICES

640 IN MEMORIAM

Don Hall

From Minden

**In loving memory of a wonderful
Husband, Father, Gramps and
Best Friend who left us January 19, 2011**

*"This day is remembered and quietly kept,
No words are needed, we shall never forget,
For those we love don't go away,
They walk beside us every day.
Unseen and unheard, but always near,
So loved, so missed, and so very dear."*

Sadly missed and loved forever!

Eleanor, Stewart, Jenny, Glenn, Julie
Chris, Andrew, Ryan, Caitlin and Owen
Family and Friends

650 OBITUARIES

Anne Willis
Peacefully on Saturday, January 9, 2021,
at Pleasant Manor, in Virgil, Ontario in
her 91st year.

Predeceased by her husband Goldwyn
(2008). Beloved mother of Warren
(Audrey) and Gail (Pat). Grammy of Ryan,
Shawn, Sarah, Rob, Tom, and extended
family, Jenn, David and Grant. She was
a cherished great-grandmother and will
be lovingly remembered by her siblings
Irene, Alice, Olga, Joyce, Ron, George and
all of their families. She was predeceased
by her sister Jean. Anne enjoyed country
life in West Guilford and spending time
with her best friend, Viola. She will also be
missed by her loving border collie, Sonny.

Our family would like to acknowledge the
staff at Pleasant Manor, for their excellent
care and communication. Mom was
always secure and happy. Arrangements
have been entrusted with Essentials
Cremation and Burial Services. Cremation
has taken place and a memorial service
will be celebrated at a later date.
Donations can be given to the Canadian
Diabetes Association. Online condolences
may be shared on Anne's tribute page
found at EssentialsNiagara.com

650 OBITUARIES

640 IN MEMORIAM

Robbin Lee Mathews
June 5th, 1959 - January 19, 2004
Beloved daughter

A million times we needed you
A million times we cried.
If love could have saved you,
You never would have died.
Our life goes on without you
But nothing is the same.
We have to hide our heartache
Whenever someone speaks your name.
Sad are the hearts that loved you,
Silent the tears that fall.
Living our lives without you,
Is the hardest part of all.
You did so many things for us
Your heart was kind and true.
When we needed someone
We could always count on you.
The special years will not return
When we were all together.
But with the love within our hearts
You walk with us forever.

Dad and Mom

With Heartfelt Sympathy

*Our thoughts go wandering,
When daylight fades.
To the land of long ago.
And memory paints the scenes of old,
In the gold of the twilight glow.
We seem to see in the soft dim light,
The faces we loved the best,
And think of them when the sun's last ray,
Goes down in the far off west.*

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Congratulations to our team at RE/MAX Professionals North for having a successful year in 2020. We are proud of our Sales Representatives and Brokers for persevering through major adversity and ending up with incredible results! We are looking forward to an even better 2021! - Leah Ambler and Christopher Alexander, Owners

Individual Awards



Linda Baumgartner***
Troy Austen*
Jeff Wilson*



Vince Duchene**
Marj Parish*



Lisa Mercer**
John Parish*
Andrea Strano**
Graeme Woods*

Rick Forget**
Terry Carr*
Bill Kulas*
Cheryl Bolger*²

Lynda Litwin*
Blake O'Byrne*
Melanie Hevesi**



Ken Barry**
Ted Vasey*
Kelly Mercer*
Rosemarie Jung*¹

Braden Roberts*²
Karen Wood***¹
Todd Tiffin*



Deb Lambe*²
Jeff Strano*
Joel Taylor*
Nicole Baumgartner***¹

Team Awards



Troy Austen*²
Jeff Wilson*²
Cheryl Bolger*²
Braden Roberts*²
Deb Lambe*²
Jess Wilson***²



Marj Parish*
John Parish*
Andrea Strano**
Jeff Strano*



Linda Baumgartner***¹
Karen Wood***¹
Rosemarie Jung*¹
Nicole Baumgartner***¹



Todd Tiffin*
Joel Taylor*

Career Awards



Rick Forget**



Jeff Wilson*²



Marj Parish*



John Parish*



Fred Chapple*



Andrea Strano**



Ken Barry**



Lisa Mercer**



Vince Duchene**



Todd Tiffin*



Joel Taylor*



Marj Parish*



John Parish*



Andrea Strano**



Jeff Strano*



Troy Austen*



Jeff Wilson*



Cheryl Bolger*



Braden Roberts*



Graeme Woods*



Fred Chapple*



Ted Vasey*



Kelly Mercer*



Lynda Litwin*



Blake O'Byrne*



Melanie Hevesi**



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INSIDE
THIS WEEK:

HOT TUB VISITOR
Who's been relaxing in our hot tub, couple asks when someone else's pants discovered

THOUGHTS ON THE FUTURE
Everyone's anxious about the economy but there are signs that Haliburton's okay

ON THE REBOUND
Deeply disappointed he wasn't chosen for Team Canada, Duchene focuses on future

THE
ECHO
HALIBURTON COUNTY
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TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 2009

Vol. 126 No. 2 \$1.35 INCL. GST

Cup put on ice

Snowmobile race cancelled for 2009

MARTHA PERKINS
Editor

There will be no snowmobile races on Head Lake this March.

Highland Cup organizer Harold Foyster has had to cancel the event because of a lack of sponsorship.

"It's better to do it now than a month from now when the hotels are booked," he told the *Echo*.

It costs about \$30,000 to get the event up and running. Last year the event lost \$18,000, much of the money coming out of Foyster's pocket. This year he's \$10,000 shy of having enough cash to start preparing for the races. Many of the potential sponsors are wary about the economy and didn't want to make the financial commitment. "They're watching their pennies," he says.

Yet many of the costs are fixed, such as the winners' purse, insurance, sanction fees, paying to have an ambulance on standby and hay for the course.

"It's too big a gamble," Foyster says of why he's not willing to risk his own money for a second year.

If he could be guaranteed good weather on the weekend of the event – no rain or blizzards to

See **Highland Cup** page 9



MATT JAMES/ECHO

A day after Team Canada's exciting 5-4 win over the Russians to earn a spot in yesterday's gold medal final, Haliburton Lake cottager Cody Hodgson listens to coach Pat Quinn during an off-day practice. The Canadian juniors are as cool as the ice beneath their feet and the mood on the ice at practice was light and playful. See tomorrow's *Minden Times* for the write up on the gold medal game.

Cody Hodgson takes on the world

MATT JAMES
Staff Reporter

Playing in meaningful hockey games is nothing new for Cody Hodgson. Even as a kid the teams he played on always went to the finals. Well, his new team – Team Canada – has done it again.

On January 3 Canada's best young hockey players made an improbable comeback in the game that would determine whether they'd get a chance to win a fifth World Juniors gold medal for their country. But it

wasn't before giving up the lead four times and being down by a goal with 3:20 remaining in the game against their Russian opponents.

In the dying seconds, with the Canadian goaltender Dustin Tokarski on the bench and the Canadians in the Russians' zone, Hodgson lifted the stick of a Russian player enabling John Tavares to get the puck to the front of the net where Jordan Eberle made a slick move to tie the game at five with five – yes five – seconds left.

With little in the tank for ei-

ther team, a 10-minute overtime solved nothing. The game went to a shootout and the skills of Eberle and Tavares would be all the Canadians needed for a 6-5 shootout win.

For any hockey fan it was an unbelievable experience. And sitting just rows from the Canadian bench, not missing any of the action since their son made the team, were Hodgson's parents, Marie and Chris.

"It was noisy in there I can tell you that much, my head was ringing," laughed Chris, the former MPP for Halibur-

ton-Kawartha Lakes-Brock and cabinet minister in two Mike Harris governments. "The place was rockin'."

Marie, on the other hand, was just happy with the positive outcome.

When asked how they dealt with their emotions at intense situations like that, Chris said matter-of-factly, "We're just used to it."

Eighteen-year-old Cody, who spends his summers at the family's cottage on Haliburton Lake,

See **Last-minute** page 10

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